



## 11400 South Speed Limits

Fall 2009- Fall 2010

### Overview

11400 South improvements are designed for safe travel up to 45 mph; however, posted speeds are typically lower than design speeds. UDOT and South Jordan City are working together to set the speed limit on 11400 South. Following construction, speeds will be posted at **35 mph from 3600 West to 1300 West** and **40 mph east of 1300 West**. UDOT will continue to analyze the roadway and the speed limit after the initial speeds are posted.

### How are Speed Limits Set?

Engineering studies are done to determine proper speed limits. The studies include statistical analysis of actual travel speeds and an analysis of accident history in the area. Roadway conditions and design are also taken into consideration when determining speeds and include:

- Road surface
- Shoulder conditions
- Grade
- Curvature
- Sight distance
- Number of lanes
- Expected traffic volumes
- Roadside development

The procedure for setting speed limits is based on the following traffic law principles:

- The majority of motorists drive in a safe and reasonable manner
- The normally careful and competent actions of a reasonable person should be considered legal
- Laws are established for the protection of the public and the regulation of unreasonable behavior of a few individuals
- Laws cannot be effectively enforced without the consent and voluntary compliance of the majority

### Why isn't the Speed Limit Lower?

Many times, the post of a lower speed limit is appropriate to alert drivers of a change in road conditions or hazards that may not be readily apparent. However, there are misconceptions that posting a lower speed limit will automatically decrease the speed of traffic, reduce accidents and increase safety.

Setting an unrealistically low speed limit does not encourage drivers to drive slower and does not increase safety. This has been demonstrated in numerous "before and after" research studies of speed limit changes. The majority of drivers tend to drive a speed that their experience indicates is safe for the road conditions. An unrealistic speed limit may be disregarded and result in disrespect for the law by normally law-abiding drivers. Additionally, it may decrease safety by encouraging individual drivers to travel at widely differing speeds in the same area.